A.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A computer-based, interactive method for facilitating the

evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a patient ~~suspected of having a medical disorder~~,

comprising <u>the steps of</u>:

<u>(a)</u>   conducting a preliminary physical examination of the patient and making a

preliminary diagnosis based on the preliminary physical examination that the patient has a

particular medical disorder;

<u>(b)</u>   <u>after the performance of step (a),</u> entering into the computer system information

identifying the particular medical disorder;

<u>(c)</u>   <u>after the performance of step (b),</u> outputting from the computer system

information about the particular medical disorder and information identifying other medical

disorders that might be confused with the <u>particular</u> medical disorder;

<u>(d)</u>   <u>after the performance of step (b),</u> prompting the user to further examine said

patient for one or more predefined signs or symptoms that might be exhibited by one afflicted

with the particular medical disorder; <u>and</u>

<u>(e)</u>   <u>after the performance of step (d), conducting a further examination of the patient</u>

<u>and</u> entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more

predefined signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient~~;~~

~~(f)   prompting the user to conduct a differential diagnosis of the patient based on the~~

~~information identifying other medical disorders that might be confused with the particular~~

~~medical disorder;~~

(g) ~~prompting the user to conduct a work up of said patient, the work up comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder;~~

(h) ~~entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined work up elements conducted on the patient;~~

(i) ~~prompting the user to recommend a treatment plan for the patient, the treatment plan comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder;~~

(j) ~~entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined treatment plan elements recommended for the patient;~~

(k) ~~entering into the computer system data identifying the patient; and~~

(l) ~~simultaneously displaying on a display of the computer system the information about the particular medical disorder, the signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient, and the patient data wherein the steps of conducting a preliminary physical examination, making a preliminary diagnosis, and entering information identifying the particular medical disorder are performed before the step of outputting.~~

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting the information about the particular medical disorder, the predefined signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient and the patient data to another user or to the patient's medical record.

8-21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in connection with providing health care to a patient ~~suspected of having a medical disorder~~, comprising:

a set of ~~pre-printed~~ templates, each of the templates directed to a ~~respective~~ <u>different</u> medical disorder<u>, one of which medical disorders the patient has been preliminarily diagnosed as being afflicted with based on a preliminary physical examination of the patient</u>, each of the templates provided with:

information prompting the user to <u>further</u> examine the patient for one or more predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

information prompting the user to conduct one or more predefined tests that could be used to determine the presence or severity of the respective medical disorder;

information prompting the user to recommend one or more predefined treatments that could be administered to treat the respective medical disorder; <u>and</u>

at least one field for entry of patient data;

wherein each of said templates is adapted for annotation by a user to indicate:

the user's observation that the patient exhibits one or more of the predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined tests should be conducted to confirm that the patient is afflicted by the respective medical disorder; and

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined treatments should be administered to treat the patient~~;~~

wherein at least one of the templates is directed to a medical disorder other than the

medical disorder the patient is suspected of having; and

wherein each of said templates is printed on paper encased within transparent plastic.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein one of the templates can be

removed from the set of templates without damaging the remaining templates.

25.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein each of the templates is

printed on paper encased in transparent plastic.

26-27. (Canceled)

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the set of templates is bound

into a handbook.

30.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further

comprises one or more templates including reference data comprising normal values or value

ranges for the one or more tests.

31.   (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises a vision chart.

32.   (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(f)   prompting the user to conduct a differential diagnosis of the patient based on the information identifying other medical disorders that might be confused with the particular medical disorder.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

(g)   prompting the user to conduct a work up of said patient, the work up comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder; and

(h)   entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined work up elements conducted on the patient.

34.   (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising the steps of:

(i)   prompting the user to recommend a treatment plan for the patient, the treatment plan comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder; and

(j)   entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined treatment plan elements recommended for the patient.

35.   (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

entering into the computer system data identifying the patient; and

simultaneously displaying on a display of the computer system the information about the

particular medical disorder, the signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient, and the patient data.